

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of **Raised Bill No. 6814**, An Act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary. I have been employed as a Registered Dental Hygienist in the State of Connecticut for over 35 years, and I currently work at Connecticut Valley Hospital treating patients in three in-patient hospital divisions; Psychiatric, Forensic and Addiction Services. While working in the public health sector, I have witnessed first hand the devastating effects of adult dental disease. Many of my patients have been forced to extract their own teeth due to the lack of resources in their community settings. I am very concerned that the dental needs of our residents are not being met; that people are living in pain on a daily basis, and that the inability to achieve a healthy and pain free mouth has negatively affected total health outcomes.

As a result of my experiences, I strongly support expanded duties for dental auxiliaries especially in public health settings. I feel that the implementation of EFDA will help to create a competent workforce by granting qualified dental professionals educational opportunities to expand their knowledge and clinical skill sets. I firmly believe this bill would help to increase access to dental care for our underserved residents, and I embrace the opportunity to work collaboratively with any dental professional trained as an EFDA.

Please vote yes to bring Raised Bill No.6814 forward.

Thank you,

Kathy Langlais RDH, BS
Bristol, CT